

cal study from the “salvage” ethnology and toward a more empirical approach that attempted to record the culture of a people in more comprehensive terms. This volume also contains an appendix with notes on various tribes and important publications that has not been updated or revised. However, the work itself has become a record of anthropological study with an unique approach that says as much about the anthropologists as it does about their attempt to record the cultures of Native Americans in 1922.

— Laurie Lisa  
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**Roy Harvey Pearce.** *Savagism and Civilization: A Study of the Indian and the American Mind*. Rev. ed. of *The Savages of America*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988) xxii, 272 pp., \$10.95 paper.

This classic volume on the image of the Indian in the American mind first appeared in 1953. Although both limited and incomplete, Pearce’s work compelled a virtual revolution in literary and historical approaches to analysis of public view concerning the role of Indians in the American past.

*The Savages of America: A Study of the Indian and the Idea of Civilization*, as it was then titled, opened the way for later works by Richard Drinnon, Lee Mitchell, and Richard Slotkin, among others. As a work which traces an idea, i.e., “savagery,” it still holds a place among later efforts.

Pearce divides the work into three long parts. The first contains a single rather long chapter in which he traces the perception of Englishmen in America as they confronted the Indian. Where Europeans first saw “devilish ignorance and brute nearly animal,” they came to see an “obstacle to civilization.”

Part two, chapters two through seven, further explores and develops the variations of interpreting the nature of “the savage,” which appeared in the writings of leading Americans, 1777-1851. Pearce deals extensively with applications of these beliefs to early American literature.

Part three, chapter eight, examines rather briefly the literature emerging during the 1840s as the nation poised for another great leap westward over the bodies and cultures of another couple of hundred Indian peoples they knew only through their own preconceptions.

For its time, this was a truly significant work. After a very short run of about one thousand copies, it was twice reissued under new titles, *The Savages of America* in 1965, and in paperback as *Savagism and Civilization* in 1967.

This new edition contains a very useful foreword by Arnold Krupat and a postscript by the author. Pearce writes in that section that “white understanding of the Indians was in a crucial part derived from a conflation of all Indians, tribes and subtribes into one: the Indian.” That this was so, and still is so, is true beyond reasonable question.

Pearce's work remains an essential volume for scholars and general readers in the areas of American civilization, culture, history, and literature. It is also useful for American Indian scholars probing the nature of the Euro-American mind.

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**Ruth Pelz. *Black Heroes of the Wild West*. (Seattle: Open Hand Publishing, 1990) 55 pp., \$5.95 paper.**

Ruth Pelz's book, illustrated by Leandro Della Piana, is written for elementary school children. Among the nine black heroes and heroines profiled are three women. They include the rough and tough "Stagecoach Mary Fields, the brave Biddy Mason, and the hard working Clara Brown." The men are the early explorer, Estevan; Chicago founder Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable; one of Washington State's founders, George Washington Bush; and mountain man James Beckwourth. Businessman and government leader Mifflin Gibbs and rodeo star Bill Pickett round out those featured. Some are more well-known than others, but all were important figures in the West.

Each of the short bibliographical profiles is written in a style that, while making the deeds of the person heroic, will not leave the reader simply awestruck. The child will be left with the impression that she or he might also be able to become a hero. Pelz explains how all her subjects command respect from their contemporaries and by detailing their lives, talents and struggles, shows why they should still be celebrated.

There is a need for more children's books of this type that show the presence and contributions of Afro-Americans in the West, beginning in the early 1500s (many people still believe that blacks did not arrive until about 100 years later). This work is well organized and the illustrations add dimension. For further readings on the subject, the author has included a bibliography for juveniles and one for adults.

I recommend this book for children and for those preschoolers whose parent or other relative desires to read it to them. Not only is it entertaining, but it is also inspiring.

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